Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (currently amended)   A method for use on a computer having a graphical operating environment, comprising:

providing a collection of items within a container, the container having a background appearance; ~~and~~

displaying a graphical preview of at least one item on the outer appearance of the container~~,~~; and

locating the graphical preview on the outer appearance in a desired location,

thereby enabling a computer user to more easily identify the contents of the container without opening the container.

2.   (original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to displaying the preview:

enumerating the items that exist within the container;

determining whether a graphical preview can be generated for each enumerated item; and

generating a list of items for which a graphical preview can be generated.

3.   (original)   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

selecting, from the generated list, a desired number of items to display on the background appearance based upon a sort criteria.

4.   (original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the sort criteria selects the items based upon those items which were most recently modified in some way.

5.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein said displaying step includes

sizing the preview ~~and locating the preview~~ on the background appearance ~~in a desired location~~.

6.   (original)   The method of claim3, wherein said displaying step further includes

determining whether a graphical preview image has previously been generated and stored, and if

so, displaying the previously generated preview.

7.   (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the preview is a thumbnail image of an

item contained within the container.

8.   (original)   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for
performing the steps recited in claim 1.

9.   (currently amended)   A method in a computer system for displaying a collection of

content items within a container, comprising:

     displaying a background appearance for the collection of items;

     determining if any of the collection of items can be graphically represented; ~~and~~

     if any of the collection of items can be graphically represented, displaying on said

background appearance a graphical preview of at least one of said items that can be graphically

represented~~.~~; and

     displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical

preview.

10.   (original)   The method of claim 9, wherein the container is a folder and the

background appearance is that of a closed file folder.

11.   (original)   The method of claim 9, wherein the container is a folder and the

background appearance is that of a photo-album.

12.   (original)   The method of claim 11, wherein said at least one graphical preview is a

preview of an electronic picture contained within the folder.

13.   (canceled)

14.   (original)   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 9.

15.   (currently amended)   A computer system for displaying a collection of items on a display using a graphical operating environment, comprising:

an item collection manager for providing a collection of items within a container, the container having a background appearance; and

a container display provider for displaying a graphical preview of at least one item on the outer appearance of the container and for displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical preview,

thereby enabling a computer user to more easily identify the contents of the container without opening the container.

16.   (currently amended)   A computer system for displaying a collection of content items on a display using a graphical operating environment, comprising:

a background appearance rendering component for the collection of items;

a graphical preview rendering component for determining if any of the collection of items can be graphically represented-and, for rendering a graphical preview, on the background appearance, of at least one of any of the collection items that can be graphically represented and for displaying a textual message in addition to the background appearance and the graphical preview.